



P&O Day 2021

Katie Prosser, Clinical Lead Orthotist

I have family who wear ankle foot orthoses so was familiar with the service to a certain degree. Then my local prosthetics centre kindly let me shadow for a day when I was in college, and that cemented by application to the degree!

I lead a small orthotic department in Bradford, West Yorkshire. My job includes overseeing the recovery of the service following a large backlog and the pressures brought-about by COVID-19. I spend 40% of my time managing and developing the service, and 60% of my time in clinic. I love making decisions in work that impact on a larger scale and improve the quality of care for the thousands of patients who I'm responsible for. I get a lot of joy educating my healthcare colleagues in the benefits of orthotics and improving how we can treat patients as a team.

One of the joyful things about orthotics that is rare in healthcare is the broad spectrum of people we see. Marathon-running young adults, palliative patients at the end of life, babies and children. Those who just require a simple insole, to those requiring complex spinal orthoses, helmets, carbon-fibre splints, lycra garments – nearly anything!

I graduated from my BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics in 2014 and took a graduate job with a company who placed me in different orthotic clinics across London and the Southeast. I was lucky and received fantastic training in my early career but was struck by how different all the services I worked in were, despite the company and orthotist being the same. That led me to undertake an MSc in Healthcare Management and I completed my thesis in orthotist job satisfaction. I have since had several senior roles for the NHS in clinical roles and have experience in a strategic educational post too.

I also sit on the professional affairs committee at the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists and guest lecture at conferences and Universities.

I now work at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in a small team with orthotists and administrators. I work closely with physiotherapists, podiatrists, consultants and ward teams to ensure that the hospital and community patients have effective and timely access to orthotic treatment. I love my job and we all help each other out as a team.